

Poynton Parish Church January 2015
Home Group Notes 4
John 13:1-17

Introduction

John sets the scene in this section of his gospel. Jesus and His disciples are all gathered in the Upper Room about to have the Passover Meal. Here Jesus has some really important teaching for them. The first part of that teaching is an enacted parable followed by an example to follow.

*****Read John 13:1-17*****

1. Why must Jesus leave his disciples so soon? Why doesn't He stay longer and teach them more? (vs 1)
2. What may have been Judas' expectations of Jesus? Why was the devil behind Judas' betrayal? (vs 2). See also Matt 16:21-23
3. Jesus was sure of who He was and the power ('the Father has given all things into His hands') at His disposal yet what does He do? (vs 3-4) If we are sure of who we are in Christ how should that affect the way we behave?
4. Why is Peter so aerated and adamant that Jesus should not wash his feet? (vs 6). If Peter is so bothered why didn't he or one of the other disciples offer to do it? No one offered to do it except the King of Kings! What does this teach us about leadership? Is that your experience of leadership? What affect does this type of leadership have on those who are being led?
5. Jesus understands Peter's concerns without belittling him. He tells him he will understand later. When would Peter understand and what would he understand? (vs 7)
6. What is Peter saying to Jesus in vs 6? Do we think certain tasks beneath us? How may this challenge us to serve in unglamorous role or tasks?
7. Peter's refusal to allow Jesus to wash his feet brings an astounding response from Jesus (vs 8). What did His response mean?
8. Jesus' explanation why Peter doesn't need washing all over is full of meaning. What do you think Jesus means by this this? (vs 9-10).
9. What is the bath we all need, which Jesus refers to in vs 10? How does this cleansing happen?

10. When cleansed by Jesus we become a new person (born of the Spirit/ born again). We then are made holy! i.e. completely clean. Have you been completely cleansed by Jesus?

11. We are unable to remain holy (clean) all the time. Why not?

12. What does Jesus tell us that we need continually, if we are to remain holy vs 10? Practically, how does this happen?

*******Review.** So this washing isn't baptism and so isn't literal but spiritual. It's God's provision to make us holy. The all over bathing is the 'once for all' cleaning Jesus gives us when we turn to Him in faith. The foot washing is His daily cleansing from everyday things we do wrong. We need both! We can't live the Christian life without the 'once for all' bathing. Some people start by rinsing their feet rather than bathing all over! **Why won't this help us?** (cf Heb 10:1-4). Others start with the all over bathing of re-birth and neglect the constant washing by Jesus and so make no progress. We need both but it begins with 'once for all' bathing (cleansing and being made holy by Jesus).*****

13. Do you understand what Jesus has done for you in this parable? Have you responded to Jesus' offer to make you holy by His all over cleansing?

14. In vs 13 what do the disciples call Jesus?

What does Jesus call himself in verse vs 14?

Why does Jesus change the order of Lord and Teacher and what does it mean? How does a correct view who Jesus is, help us to serve others?

*****Our service should have at it's heart, Jesus as Lord of our lives. Making Him Lord of our lives enables us to follow his example and teaching. This will require us to be obedient.*****

15. In vs 13-14 Jesus shows us an example to follow in foot washing. We need a change in attitude of mind and heart which only Jesus' spiritual cleansing can effect. In what practical ways might we serve one another?

16. What is the outcome of this loving service of others in Christ's strength? vs 17.

Prayer

Thank Jesus for His gracious gift of all over cleansing when we come to Him. Pray that as we hold Jesus as Lord we will serve others.

Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters as they witness to Jesus and serve others. Pray for Rob in India.

Pray for the Besom Project as we seek to serve others. We now have three people on the Core Team.